



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 17-18 June, 2023

Reflection *(by Fr Brian Gleeson CP)*

It's often said: 'Honesty is the best policy!' I tend to agree. Some time ago, I saw a very touching movie, one of the best I've ever seen, called *Secrets and Lies*. It's about a white woman who secretly gave birth to a black daughter, and who was kept from seeing and sharing with her daughter all through the child's growing-up years. The story unfolds and undoes the secrets and lies that had kept mother and daughter strangers to each other during that long time.

The movie illustrates just how much the truth matters. So, e.g. we call for truth in politics and truth in advertising, and in a court of law, we are expected to swear to the truth of what we say – 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth'. For facts are very important. It's equally important to us that we be known as honest, sincere, genuine, trust-worthy people, who don't deceive, mislead, or cover-up. We know from experience that to sustain and develop our relationships, openness, honesty, and transparency are not optional, but absolutely necessary.

It's also a fact of life that we human beings cannot cope with too much reality. So, we don't take kindly to anyone who blurts out our faults and failings to our face, who attack and abuse us, even though they may be telling the unvarnished truth. For the sake of our self-esteem and self-respect, something more than telling the truth to one another is needed. That something more is courtesy and politeness, patience and gentleness, understanding and tact. While deep down we want to face the truth for the sake of our integrity, we will take it much more readily from those who show they are on our side – people who care about us, people who support us.

What's all this got to do with the teaching of Jesus today? A great deal, I suggest. Jesus, who has just called himself 'the truth', as well as 'the way' and 'the life', tells his friends, including us, that he has to go away. This is the truth. But some day he will come back to earth, and we will see him again. That's the second truth. And there is a third truth he tells. For the time in-between, he is sending us the Holy Spirit, his second self, to be our adviser, advocate, comforter and support.

We rejoice, then, that the same Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, who was the source of Jesus' own honesty, truthfulness and integrity, is given to us and stays with and among us. Unless, of course, we deliberately decide to be 'people of the lie' (F. Scott Peck), living lives of spin, hypocrisy and deception. That same Spirit of Jesus is available to us 24/7 to empower us to be as truthful as Jesus. He also assures us that the

Spirit of truth given to us is also the Spirit of love, empowering us to be like Jesus too in the way he communicated the truth. This was with courtesy, politeness and gentleness, and with patience, understanding and tact.

The importance of 'telling it like it is' to our fellow-human beings applies also to what we say and how we say it, when we pray to God. When we are thanking God for gifts and blessings, we do that easily enough. But many of us are not good at telling God just how we feel, when life is tasting more like lemons than lemonade.

This is particularly so at the present time, when we find ourselves cut off from others, even our nearest and dearest, because of the restrictions imposed by the ravages of the corona virus. We are quite ready and even eager to thank God for the good and heroic people around us keeping our communities going, such as doctors, nurses, shop assistants, bus and train drivers. But we are not so ready to pray prayers of lament to God, prayers in which we complain to God, even quite vigorously, for the death and destruction happening around us and around our world. We don't find ourselves praying, like the Jewish people of old: 'How long, O Lord, will you let this happen? How much longer must we wait for you to step in and deliver us from this pandemic scourge?'

For many if not most of us, there is a block to praying such open, honest, and heart-felt prayer. We have been raised to speak only politely to 'Almighty God'. Our sense of reverence and respect simply stop us from 'letting it rip' with what we ask of God and how we phrase it. It may help us to remember, then, that in the Psalms, the Jewish Prayer Book Christians have inherited from our Jewish ancestors, about two-thirds of the 150 psalms are laments, pleading for the Lord's help in situations of desperation. Their confidence in God's nearness to his beloved people, keeps them moaning and groaning over and over again: 'Why? Where are you, God? How much longer will we have to endure this?'

Jesus has promised to provide his gift to us of the Holy Spirit, as the Comforter, the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of love, given for our dealings with God and with our fellow-human beings. So, in the rest of our prayer together today, let us ask that when we need to speak the truth to others, that the Spirit of God will empower us to also speak it with respect, care, concern, and love! Let us pray too that our reverence and love for God will not block us from saying to God just how down and depressed we may be feeling, about the situations for which we are seeking God's loving care and God's powerful intervention!

Weekday Masses

Monday

9am Mass

Tuesday

9am Mass

Wednesday

7pm Mass

Thursday

9am Mass

Friday

9am Mass

Saturday

6pm

Sunday

9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/3F67ef5qBqE>

Reconciliation

Saturdays

10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)

Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)

Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP

Fr Brian Gleeson CP

Fr Kevin Hennessy CP

Fr Luke Bulley CP

St Paul Apostle North

Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068

Principal

Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South

Primary School

Ph. 9700 3663

Principal

Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's

Regional College

Ph. 9791 3366

Principal

Mr Tim Hogan

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER COLLECTION

Our Endeavour Hills St Vincent de Paul will be conducting their annual winter collection to support their work in helping those in need. This year's special collection will be held during all Masses this weekend (17th-18th June)

YOUTH MEETING (for Year 5-9)

Thank you to parents whom have enthusiastically attended their first meeting for this age group and are excited to commence activities for the children. The first gathering will be on **FRI-DAY, 11th AUGUST at 7pm in the Annexe**. If you are interested in joining this group please contact the parish office on 9700 3781

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

is August 4-6 (Friday night to Sunday afternoon). at Pallotti College for those aged 18+. It will be run by Tom Warren (from our Passionist Youth Retreat Team in Brisbane) and Fr Luke. This is an open invitation to young people in our parish, as well as friends, or anyone else who would like to come. Registration forms will be available at the gathering space. We are limited to 20 people, so please register soon (details to the right). Cost is \$150 per person. This will be a great opportunity to get to know other young people in our wider parish community, as well as deepen faith in a fun and open way. There will also be the possibility of being part of an emerging Team of young people facilitating school retreats around Victoria towards the end of the year. Register by scanning the QR Code, or clicking [this link](#).



2023 SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

Those who have been registered to this program, please remember that your last family night is this **TUESDAY, 20th June at 7pm** in the Church. You must attend this gathering with one or both parents. Attendance is compulsory for completion of the program. All details of the Mass will be explained during the night.

2023 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This program is for all school children in years 6-8 who have received their Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion. If your child is in this category and wishes to be part of the

2023 program, registration is now open. You can obtain the registration form from either the Parish Office or our website (under "documents and forms" tab) or simply click [here](#). Donation is \$25 per child. Return the completed form to the PARISH OFFICE no later than the 23rd of SEPTEMBER (Please do not return to the school office)

PROJECT COMPASSION BOX

Please return your Project Compassion box, either to parish office (Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm) or you may also return it when you come to Church

PARISH BINGO

Remember to put it in your diary that our next parish bingo night is on **FRIDAY, 21 July from 7.30pm**. You may come in a group or on your own. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is **strictly only for anyone older than 18 yrs old**. Anyone under this age is not allowed to come in to the hall.

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN is an organization which provides supports for women (is having a fundraising event on **SATURDAY, 22 July 2023** from 2pm to 4pm. 'HIGH TEA' in KENNEDY HALL, Killister College, 433 Springvale Rd, Springvale 3171. Cost is \$60 per person. If you wish to have more information or to book, please send email to lata@wellspringsforwomen.com payment is by bank transfer to the following account:

account name: Wellsprings for Women
BSB 636 000 Account 129 467 502
Ref Surname

RSVP by 17 July 2023

DANDENONG DEANERY DINNER

The next Dandenong Deanery Dinner is on **WEDNESDAY, 12th July at 5.30pm**. It will be held at **Graduate Restaurant of St John's Regional College, Caroline Street, Dandenong**. This time the guest speaker is Deacon George Piech Meat Cost is \$45 per person (incl. 3 course meal and Wine or Beer) If you interested to attend please RSVP to Paddy 0422 296 961 or email to dandenongdeanery@live.com.au Payment is by Cash or cheque or bank transfer (please note that there is NO CARD FACILITY)

Readings:

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Ex 19:2-6;
Rom 5:6-11;
Mt 9:36 – 10:8

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Jer 20: 10-13;
Rom 5:12-15;
Mt 10: 26-33

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Denis Carlow, Sonia Singh, Roger Gray, Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Chris Williams, Cecil Harper, Fr Brian Gleeson, Wilhada de los Reyes, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Rajendre Rasiah, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Horace Stolke, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or home-bound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Angela Leong, Stephen De Niese, Ainsley Jansz, Ho York Chau, Leslie Nadarajah, Henry Peteru, Maria Evans **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

